



4 November 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Hilo Harbor Ecosystem Restoration, Hilo, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed construction of the Hilo Deep Draft Harbor in 1930. The existing project consists of a 10,080-foot long breakwater protecting a 35-foot deep basin.

b. Recently, the County of Hawaii, through a letter of request dated 9 October 2002, requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate an environmental restoration project in Hilo Bay under the authority of Section 1135, Water Resources Development Act (WDRA) 86. Initial funding for the start of the study was received in February 2003. The sponsor is the County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works.

c. The purpose of the Hilo Harbor Environmental project is to reverse degradation to the coral reef ecosystem and improve water quality in Hilo Harbor to conditions that prevailed prior to the development of the Hilo Deep Draft Harbor.

d. The first phase of the project will be the preparation of a Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP). The PRP will be prepared at full Federal expense by December 2003 and will serve as the initial decision document to determine whether Federal interest is warranted.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal Congressional interest in this project, at this time.